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IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 12 July 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the request from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, contained in document A/46/141, to include in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Exploitation of the environment as a weapon in times of armed conflict and the taking of practical measures to prevent such exploitation", and the explanatory memorandum annexed to that request, I should like to state that my country welcomes the inclusion of the said item out of our substantial concern and interest in protecting the environment and natural resources, which are the property of the entire mankind, and preventing their use as a weapon of terrorism as we witnessed during the war of Kuwait's liberation.

However, we regrettably notice that in citing the environmental devastation suffered by Kuwait and the region the explanatory memorandum annexed to the request has overlooked the fact that this environmental calamity was not the result of military conflict (as the memorandum says), but was the product of a deliberate act that was planned in the very first days of the brutal Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Our delegation has already asserted that in its memorandum addressed to Your Excellency on 20 August 1990 (S/21572) when the invading Iraqi forces set out then to mine all the vital Kuwaiti institutions and installations, including the oil facilities, thereby setting the stage to destroy them when the operation of liberating Kuwait begins. That is exactly what occurred, as the vanquished Iraqi forces applied

the scorched-land policy by burning more than 700 oil wells, and they also destroyed all the oil refineries and gathering stations as well as the power and water desalinization plants, not to mention the other industrial and civil installations. All that was preceded by flooding several millions of oil barrels into the waters of the Arab Gulf, an act that constituted the most extensive pollution of the marine environment in history.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad AL SALLAL
Chargé d'affaires a.i.